

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03714 231634Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----089711 231635Z /64

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1229

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

S E C R E T TUNIS 3714

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1, -2

TAGS: UNSC, PEPR, PBOR, XF, SY, LE, IS, TS

SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF UNIFIL

REF: (A) STATE 126253 (B) STATE 127546

1. I SPENT A HALF HOUR THIS MORNING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED FITOURI IN AN EFFORT TO ENLIST TUNISIA'S INTERCESSION WITH YASSIR ARAFAT TO RESTRAIN PALESTINIANS UNDER HIS CONTROL FROM INFILTRATION THROUGH UNIFIL LINES. I MADE ALL THE POINTS SUGGESTED IN STATE 126253. IN ADDITION I INCLUDED OTHER POINTS SUGGESTED IN STATE 127546.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER LISTENED ATTENTIVELY AND THEN REPEATED BACK TO ME THE MAJOR POINTS I HAD MADE. HE SEEMED PARTICULARLY INFLUENCED BY THE STRESS I LAID ON THE NECESSITY OF SUPPORTING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AND RESPECT FOR THE UN PEACEKEEPING MACHINERY AGAINST ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE USEFULNESS IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA.

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AS A MEMBER OF BOTH THE ARAB LEAGUE AND THE OAU, HE SAID, HE GOT COULD READILY APPRECIATE THE WISDOM OF OUR POSITION. HE SEEMED NOT TO HAVE REALIZED, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAELIS HAD ALREADY FIXED A DATE FOR THEIR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UNIFIL-OCCUPIED ZONE.

3. FITOURI TOLD ME HE WOULD RELAY US THINKING TO HIS

COLLEAGUES AND DISCUSS WHAT GOT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO, ALTHOUGH HE AVOIDED MAKING ANY FURTHER COMMITMENT. HE ASKED WHETHER I KNEW WHEN FURTHER DIRECT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI CONTACTS WOULD RESUME. I TOLD HIM I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WOULD SEE ACTIVITY TOWARD THAT END RESUME SHORTLY, ALTHOUGH I WAS UNINFORMED ON FUTURE TIMING. HE ASSURED ME GOT CONTINUED TO FAVOR ALL MOVES WHICH WOULD KEEP THE PEACE IN THE MIDEAST AND FELT PEACE LARGEY DEPENDED ON EVERYONE'S NOT LOSING SIGHT OF THE RIGHTS AND JUST DEMANDS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. AFTER DISCUSSING LEBANESE SECURITY SITUATION, FITOURI EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT LEBANESE SECURITY FORCES WOULD SOON BE WELL ENOUGH ORGANIZED TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FRONTIERS.

4. AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, BEN REDJEB, WHO WAS PRESENT AS NOTE-TAKER, WHILE ACCOMPANYING ME TO THE MINISTRY'S MAIN DOOR, TOLD ME HE HAD HEARD YESTERDAY AN ARAFAT ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE PLO PLANNED TO INSTITUTE A SERIES OF "TRIBUNALS" IN SOUTH LEBANON WHOSE MISSION WOULD BE TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND PUNISH VIOLATORS OF UNIFIL LINES.

MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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